

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-119 are currently pending. No claims have been amended herewith.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-119 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,202,092 to Takimoto et al. (hereinafter “the ‘092 patent”).

Claim 1 is directed to a printing system, comprising: (1) a printing apparatus; (2) a terminal apparatus for transmitting information including a request to execute a specific print job and for receiving information; (3) notification means for notifying a registered user of the printing apparatus of information on authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job prior to the transmission of the request to execute the specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of the printing apparatus, wherein the notification means is unaware of the specific print job when notifying the registered user; and (4) a network connecting the printing apparatus, the terminal apparatus, and the notification means so that information transmission and reception in the system is performed through an electrical signal via the network.

The ‘092 patent is directed to a print system including a shared printer on a network in which the authority of each user to use the printer is set in a security database. After a print request, including the number of sheets to be printed, is sent to a security validating device, the ‘092 patent discloses that the security validating device decides whether authorization to use the printer is to be granted based on the restrictions on the user maintained in the database

and the status of the user.¹ Further, the ‘092 patent discloses that, if the printing is authorized, the printing is completed and the status of the user is updated in the security database.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the ‘092 patent fails to disclose means for notifying a registered user of the printing apparatus of information on authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job prior to the transmission of the request to execute the specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, as recited in Claim 1. Rather, the ‘092 patent discloses that a request by the client to execute a specific print job occurs before any type of notification to the user.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the ‘092 patent fails to disclose that the notification means is unaware of the specific print job when notifying the registered user, as recited in Claim 1. Rather, in the ‘092 system, **the specific print job is sent to the server as the initial request.**

In this regard, Applicants note that the Office states that “[b]ased on the amendment, Applicant seems to be making a simple query of authorization of using an apparatus.”² However, Applicants note that Claim 1 still states that the registered user is a registered user of the printing apparatus, and that the notification means notifies the registered user on authority to use the printing apparatus prior to transmission of a request to execute a specific print job. Applicants respectfully submit that the additional limitation added to Claim 1 in the last amendment does not in any way allow the other limitations recited in Claim 1 to be ignored. The previous amendment simply further clarifies the sequence of events regarding printing recited in Claim 1.

¹ See ‘092 patent, column 4, line 64 to column 5, line 14.

² See page 2 of the Office Action.

In addition, Applicants note that the Office Action cites to column 3, lines 59-63, as well as column 5, lines 37-43 in the ‘092 patent as disclosing the notification means recited in Claim 1. However, the cited passage in column 3 of the ‘092 patent regarding the security validating section 22b relates to operations that occur after a print request. See ‘092 column 3, lines 52-54. On the contrary, Claim 1 requires notification on authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus prior to transmission of a request to execute a specific print job.

Further, the passage in column 5 refers to the flowchart of Figure 2 and also discloses the sending of an initial print request before any type of notification, contrary to the requirements of Claim 1. Figure 2 also discloses a management function for an administrator to update a database, but is unrelated to notifying a registered user on the authority of the registered user to use a printing apparatus. Rather, the ‘092 patent merely discloses that a manager is allowed to modify the contents of a database on a server for administrative purposes.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) as anticipated by the ‘092 patent.

Independent Claim 19 is directed to a printing apparatus that recites the notification means recited in Claim 1. Claim 27 is directed to a terminal apparatus but clarifies that the information as to the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus is determined without knowledge of the specific print job. Claim 38 is directed to a printing method that includes a step of setting authority of a registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job, wherein the setting step is performed without knowledge of the specific print job. Claim 61 recites a step identical to that recited in Claim 38. Also Claim 83 is directed to a notification part that notifies the registered user of a printing apparatus of information on authority of registered user to use the printing apparatus to

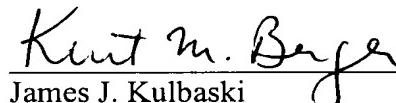
execute any print job wherein the notification part is unaware of the specific print job when notifying the registered user. Claim 101 also includes the notification part recited in Claim 83. Finally, Applicants note that Claim 109 recites the terminal apparatus wherein the information as to the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus is determined without knowledge of the specific print job. As discussed above, the '092 patent fails to disclose these limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the above independent claims patentably define over '092 patent.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 19, 27, 38, 61, 83, 101, and 109 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '092 patent.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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